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The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—" No, not at all. What I said was that, if every item of retrenchment were to be placed before this House and discussed by them, there would not be time to effect a single measure of retrenchment. "

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—"May I know if the Government are going to give effect to the proposals of the Retrenchment Committee or are they going to make any changes ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—" I have already said that in tables A and B appended to question No. 345-A, I have given a statement showing the financial effect of the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. I cannot give an undertaking that Government will give effect to all those recommendations. "

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" May I know if there are certain cases in which the Government have not given effect to the proposals of the Retrenchment Committee ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—" In many instances the Government have given effect to the proposals of the Retrenchment Committee. I believe there are some cases in which the Government have not accepted their recommendations, and some which are still under consideration. "

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar :—" With reference to the answer given to this question, may I ask whether the hon. Member will not be pleased to give an opportunity to this House to express its opinion on specific items of expenditure which are recommended to be cut by the Retrenchment Committee ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—" I do not think it will be possible to give an opportunity to the House to discuss every single item that comes before the Retrenchment Committee. I presume when the Retrenchment Committee's report is placed on the table of the House, there will be ample opportunity for hon. Members to express their views. "

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" Will it be possible for the Government to say now whether they could balance the budget ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—" I wish I could say so. "

*Relative percentage of cuts in the salaries of the services.*

* 495 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed.: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the percentage is of cut in salaries recommended by the Retrenchment Committee and accepted by Government in the case of (1) Menial services, (2) Subordinate services, (3) Gazetted services and (4) Special posts;

(*b*) how this cut works out ultimately in the case of gazetted officers drawing Rs. 1,000 and above as compared with the non-gazetted officers; and

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(c) how the Government propose to remove the inequality, if any, in the actual working out of the general cut in salaries?

*A.*—(a), (b) & (c) The whole matter is under the consideration of Government and they are not in a position to make any announcement at present. An announcement will be made as soon as final decisions are reached.

*Proposals regarding retrenchment.*

* 496 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Goundar: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) when the Retrenchment Committee is expected to conclude their sittings and finish their labours;

(b) what the probable amount will be that can be saved after effecting these retrenchments;

(c) whether there is any proposal to cut the salaries of officers; and

(d) if so, on what scale, and in what order?

*A.*—(a) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (b) of Question No. 494.

(b) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to Question No. 345-A.

(c) & (d) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to Question No. 495.

*Recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee.*

*497 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government will place before the Council the recommendations of the Retrenchment Officer and the Retrenchment Committee and the decisions of the Government thereon before the same are given effect to; and

(b) what is the procedure the Government propose to follow in this matter?

*A.*—(a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply to Question No. 345-A in which full answer has been given.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"May I ask the Government whether all the retrenchment proposals will be placed before the Members of this House to enable them to make their suggestions to the Members of the Retrenchment Committee before the latter meet to consider them?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"I have already said that the suggested procedure would practically mean that we have to place every item before this House. That is not practical. If that is to be done, we will never get the retrenchment proposals completed in time."